

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the original Abstract at page 41, lines 1-22 in its entirety and insert therefor the following substitute Abstract on a separate sheet as follows:

ABSTRACT

A rubber kneading machine obviates an operator having to touch rubber on a rotating roll surface to perform a rubber kneading operation, permits unattended operation, is intrinsically safe, improves a rubber kneading process productivity, secures stable quality of kneaded rubber, and allows a closed rubber supplying mechanism to be easily opened and exposed for easy cleaning. The rubber kneading machine includes two horizontal rolls closely disposed vertically, decelerators and variable speed motors rotating the rolls at different speeds, and a screw extruder supplying a rubber lump fed into a hopper at a proximal end to the rolls. A rubber circulating mechanism constructed mainly of a scraper and a belt conveyor, or a belt conveyor above the upper roll, feeds a rubber sheet, which has left the rolls, to the hopper. A mechanism releasing the screw extruder makes it possible to open and expose closed portions to facilitate cleaning.